

Department of Health Care Policy and Financing Updates

August 31, 2011

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Breaking News

Interfaces Make Application Process Easier

Effective August 29, 2011 new electronic verification systems were implemented making it easier and less expensive for Coloradans to apply for public health insurance. The changes eliminate the need for some applicants to supply income, citizenship and identity verification.

The new electronic interfaces include:

- Income Verification The new Income Eligibility Verification System (IEVS) allows electronic verification of income by using existing data collected from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment.
- <u>U.S. Citizenship and Identity Verification</u> Allows identity and U.S. citizenship to be verified electronically through a connection directly with the Social Security Administration.
- <u>Automatic Reenrollment</u> Eligible Coloradans who have had no change in their income or number
 of household members will be automatically re-enrolled in Medicaid or CHP+ without completing a
 renewal form.

Some applicants will still need to provide paper documentation. Applicants who do not provide a Social Security Number will be required to provide proof of their wages; self-employed individuals will still need to provide income verification by filling in the current ledger information on the Application for

Medical Assistance or a profit and loss statement. Applicants who cannot be verified through the Social Security Administration interface will still need to submit original documents.

CHIPRA II Grants to Colorado Organizations

Two Colorado organizations received funding from the CHIPRA II grants.

Colorado Association for School Based Health Care (\$729,348) will reach out through school-based health centers to children in nine school districts who are eligible for public health insurance programs but are not enrolled. Data from free and reduced-price school meal programs and school registration forms will be used to help identify eligible children and assist their families with Medicaid/CHP+ applications.

Denver Indian Health Family Services Inc. (\$541,330) is an urban Indian organization that serves the metro-Denver area. The grantee will identify Native American children who are eligible but not enrolled in Medicaid or CHP+ and help get them enrolled.

Improving Health Outcomes

Accountable Care Collaborative Update

The Department has begun contracting with participating Primary Care Medical Providers for program implementation into the Accountable Care Collaborative program. The Department currently has 49 contract PCMPs representing over 1,000 medical providers. These Primary Care Medical Providers are located in the defined focus communities of the Regional Care Collaborative Organizations.



As of July 27th, there was a total of 44,267 clients enrolled into the Accountable Care Program: (RCCO 1 – Rocky Mountain Health Plans) had approximately 7,991 clients enrolled; (RCCO 2 – Colorado Access) had approximately 6,000 clients enrolled; (RCCO 3- Coloroado Access) had approximately 5,970 clients enrolled; (RCCO 4 – Integrated Community Health Partners) had approximately 7,794 clients enrolled; (RCCO 5 –Colorado Access) had 3,278 clients enrolled; (RCCO 6 – Colorado Community Health Alliance) had approximately 3,843 clients enrolled, and (RCCO 7 – Community Care of Central Colorado) had approximately 9,391 clients enrolled.

As of the end of June, the total opt-out rate for all regions was 2.23 percent. If you would like more information, please contact <u>Sarah Roberts</u>.

Pharmacies: Receive Updates Fast

Would you like to receive updates regarding Pharmacy related changes for Medicaid? Please send an email to Colorado.SMAC@hcpf.state.co.us and ask to be added to the email distribution list.

Containing Costs

Electronic Prior Authorization Requests

The ColoradoPAR Program was implemented on August 31, 2011. The program gives providers the capability to submit PARs electronically in the near future. The ColoradoPAR Program has a new web portal with enhanced functionality to ease the administrative burden on providers for PAR submission.

There will be webinars and regional trainings to assist providers with navigation and use of the new web portal. Additional information regarding upcoming training schedules will be posted on the ColoradoPAR Web site.

If you would like more information, please contact the ColoradoPAR Program information line at 1-888-454-7686.

Initiative Updates

Money Follows the Person Federal Grant – CO-ACTS

HRSA Grant – CO-CHAMP

Colorado Health Care Affordability Act

Accountable Care Collaborative

Medicaid Infrastructure Grant

Legislative Update

SB11-08, Concerning Aligning Medicaid Eligibility for Children, was passed by the Legislature during the 2011 legislative session. The bill eliminates the so-called "stair-step" in Medicaid eligibility for children by making the income eligibility criteria for children age 6 through 19 the same as the criteria for kids under five and pregnant women - less than 133% of the federal poverty level.

Although the legislation passed with a September 2011 implementation date, the fiscal note indicated that CBMS and the MMIS could not be modified to make the change until July 1, 2012 which would mean that the legislation would take effect on January 1, 2013. The Department is on track to implement the bill in the schedule outlined in the fiscal note.

If you would like more information, please contact Carrie Cortiglio.

Healthy Living Initiatives



The Department is now a formal stakeholder for the HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) Policy Coalition facilitated by LiveWell Colorado. The mission of the HEAL Coalition is to improve health outcomes in our state, including the reduction of obesity, through public policy objectives at state, federal and local levels.

The group meets monthly to discuss progress on the following priority areas:

- Physical activity and education (childcare through grade 12)
- School feed (childcare through grade 12)
- Active transportation
- Food access and security

Underlying all of these policy areas is a focus on equity and addressing health disparities. *If you would like more information, please contact Lisa Waugh.*

Employment Opportunities

Applying for state jobs has just become easier! Applications are electronic, you will receive updates, and you do not need to answer any written questions until it is determined that you meet the minimum qualifications. Check out the new <u>Web site</u> and our job openings.

The Department offers a competitive benefits package that includes the Public Employees' Retirement Account (PERA), a 401K or 457 retirement plan, health and dental insurance options, 10 holidays, and accrual of paid sick and vacation time.

The Department is a tobacco-free campus.

Enrollment

In July 2011 there were 591,843 clients enrolled in Medicaid and 65,537 clients enrolled in CHP+. Monthly numbers for enrollment and expenditures can be found on the Department's Web page, Budget.